



Michigan Crop Weather

Varied Moisture

Six days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending July 27, according to the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office. Precipitation varied from 0.02 inches in the west central Lower Peninsula to 0.79 inches in the east central Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 3 degrees below normal in the southwestern and south central Lower Peninsula to 1 degree below normal in the eastern Upper Peninsula, and the northwestern and northeastern Lower Peninsula. Temperatures this past week were slightly below normal but still fairly warm throughout the state. Growers in many areas reported that there is a need for rainfall, while others are saying that there is too much moisture. A reporter in the central region stated, "We still continue to battle too much moisture in some areas, while others are getting dry. There is a huge difference in moisture levels within a 2-3 mile drive!" Harvest of wheat and hay is great in the drier areas, but difficult in others due to moisture levels. "Second cutting hay is hard to harvest as we have had foggy mornings and overcast afternoons. Some wheat is getting harvested in the area but they have had the same problem with moisture," a farmer in the southwest reported.

Field Crops

The varied moisture levels have presented a challenge for some farmers. **Corn** continued to grow well this past week and was tasseling in many fields. Most were optimistic about yield potential. Continue to monitor for pests such as cutworm and armyworm. Some of the **soybeans** that were having problems earlier were improved because of the sun and rains, but some fields still have yellow areas. At this stage, the majority of the crop is blooming and some are setting pods. A large amount of **winter wheat** was harvested this week and was approaching completion in many areas, but some were still harvesting as weather and moisture levels permit. Harvest of **alfalfa** is progressing. Rains and moisture slowed harvest in some areas while dry conditions were great for harvest in other areas. **Dry beans** stands were average and some reported damage due to excess moisture. The **sugarbeet** crop looked good. Growers were very optimistic about production potential. **Oat** harvest was just beginning in some areas, though many expected to begin this coming week. **Barley** remained in good condition.

Soil moisture for week ending 07/27/08				
Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	9	19	67	5
Subsoil	6	20	70	4

Crop condition for week ending 07/27/08					
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All Hay	2	4	22	54	18
Barley	1	6	29	62	2
Corn	2	4	16	46	32
Dry beans	8	13	30	36	13
Oats	1	4	22	55	18
Pasture	1	6	32	47	14
Soybeans	3	10	27	46	14
Winter Wheat	1	4	24	46	25

Fruit

Apples grew to 2.8 inches and 47 mm in diameter in the southwest and northwest, respectively. In the southeast, where new strikes of fire blight infections were found, apples grew to 2.5 inches. In the Grand Rapids area, apples sized well and growers were encouraged to closely scout for insect pests. Harvest of midseason **apricots** was underway in the southwest and northwest. **Blackberry** harvest continued in the southwest. **Cranberries** were at pinhead and small green fruit in the southwest. **Blueberry** harvest was underway across the State. In the southeast, where berries have been slow to ripen on many farms, the demand for pick your own and ready pick berries was excellent. In the southeast, harvest of early variety **peaches** began; oriental fruit moths were prevalent. **Pears** were 35 mm in the northwest and 2 inches in the southwest. In the southeast, pears grew to 1.75 inches; fire blight and leaf spot infections were found. **Plums** were 27 mm in the northwest, and harvest of 'Early Golden' and 'Methley' began in the southwest. **Strawberry** re-growth from renovation was underway in the southwest; renovation was completed in the southeast. **Sweet cherry** harvest was underway in the west central; a large amount of abandonment due to excessive splitting was expected. In the northwest, harvest was in full swing, as fruit quality was a challenge with frost scars and cracking from varied rainfall. In the southwest, sweet cherry harvest was completed and post-harvest pruning began. **Tart cherry** harvest was underway in the west central and northwest; harvest neared completion in the southeast. **Raspberry** harvest began in the northwest and continued in the southwest and southeast. **Grapes** were at cluster tightening in the southwest and berry touch in the northwest.

Vegetables

Temperatures continued about normal but rainfall amounts were low, and irrigation was underway where it was available. The first flush of fern on full season **asparagus** fields were fully expanded and most growers put down their first fungicide cover. **Cabbage** harvest continued at a good pace. Foliar diseases continued to be a concern for **carrots**. Root diameter in fields for processing was one to one and a half inches. **Celery** planting was completed in all areas and harvest was on schedule. **Cantaloup** harvest began this week. **Watermelons** were continuing to size with harvest approaching. Powdery mildew began to appear in most **pumpkin** fields. Early **cucumber**, **yellow squash**, and **zucchini** fields were finished and were being removed with some being replanted. Early virus symptoms were showing up. **Onions** continued to progress and bulbs were sizing at one to one and a half inches in diameter. Growers report normal insect and disease pressure with crop development possibly a little behind normal. **Peppers** and **eggplants** continued to grow well with few problems. **Potatoes** were ready earlier than expected and **peas** were almost done. **Butternut** and **winter squash** for processing were growing well with first bloom appearing. Summer **snap bean** plantings continued to grow normally in most areas. **Sweet corn** harvest just began and volume has increased as more fields come into production. There were no major problems reported. Harvest of market **tomatoes** were in full swing with good quality. Initial harvest of processing tomatoes is approaching. **Pickle** harvest presented a challenge as wet and warm weather has pushed pickle size and slowed harvesting operations.

Crop progress for week ending 07/27/08				
Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Inches	Inches	Inches	Inches
Corn, height	70	56	67	65
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
All hay, second cutting	63	50	71	64
All hay, third cutting	6	NA	9	6
Blueberries, harvested	36	27	33	33
Corn, silked	68	28	70	61
Corn, dough	2	NA	4	2
Dry beans, blooming	46	10	43	46
Dry beans, setting pods	5	NA	NA	NA
Oats, turning yellow	78	58	82	75
Oats, harvested	6	2	21	14
Peaches, harvested	15	4	18	10
Potatoes, harvested	1	NA	NA	NA
Soybeans, blooming	79	64	79	70
Soybeans, setting pods	36	6	40	30
Tart cherries, harvested	60	26	67	73
Winter wheat, harvested	85	47	95	77

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 07/27/08 ¹												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days ²			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2008	2007	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal	
											Since April 1	For month
Ironwood	81	43		1,040	1,376		0.33	1.49	2.60	11.16		
Marquette	80	48		973	1,299		0.26	1.60	2.71	13.19		
Stephenson	84	47		1,280	1,435		0.02	1.58	3.38	13.03		
Western UP	84	39	-2	1,070	1,348	1,117	0.36	1.44	2.50	11.50	12.27	3.42
Cornell	86	48		1,123	1,364		0.38	0.98	2.61	11.89		
Sault St Marie	79	54		976	1,235		1.04	1.60	3.34	11.93		
Eastern UP	86	45	-1	983	1,250	941	0.53	1.18	2.52	12.28	11.42	3.19
Beulah	82	52		1,363	1,485		0.43	0.78	1.74	15.60		
Lake City	82	51		1,309	1,436		0.20	0.87	1.53	17.03		
Old Mission	82	53		1,290	1,404		0.23	0.77	1.32	10.14		
Pellston	80	52		1,251	1,376		1.07	2.02	3.01	12.80		
Northwest	82	48	-1	1,261	1,389	1,271	0.37	1.11	1.80	13.16	10.99	2.99
Alpena	83	54		1,300	1,405		0.05	3.57	4.36	13.03		
Houghton Lake	81	51		1,358	1,436		0.46	1.58	1.95	14.73		
Rogers City	81	53		1,281	1,448		0.37	2.41	2.92	14.10		
Northeast	83	51	-1	1,318	1,420	1,226	0.38	2.62	3.17	13.90	10.99	3.18
Fremont	84	51		1,449	1,596		0.00	0.15	2.52	11.92		
Hart	82	50		1,388	1,507		0.00	0.19	3.68	14.03		
Muskegon	83	58		1,427	1,607		0.01	0.28	3.14	11.69		
West Central	84	50	-2	1,402	1,543	1,398	0.02	1.02	3.72	14.60	10.97	2.54
Alma	84	51		1,535	1,683		0.28	0.69	1.18	8.55		
Big Rapids	84	50		1,483	1,489		0.37	0.71	1.74	11.05		
Central	84	50	-2	1,493	1,584	1,463	0.41	0.83	1.87	9.40	11.83	2.97
Bad Axe	82	58		1,495	1,520		0.88	2.11	4.14	13.29		
Pigeon	83	56		1,444	1,484		0.40	1.34	2.48	9.55		
Saginaw	83	54		1,596	1,679		0.65	1.60	2.74	11.56		
Standish	84	53		1,404	1,486		1.50	2.78	3.66	12.05		
East Central	84	53	-1	1,460	1,546	1,448	0.79	1.98	3.16	11.25	10.84	2.92
Fennville	83	55		1,455	1,598		0.11	0.86	2.10	16.58		
Grand Rapids	84	58		1,684	1,812		0.01	0.25	4.40	15.44		
Holland	84	55		1,670	1,769		0.00	0.70	4.08	17.26		
South Bend, IN	84	57		1,747	1,913		0.06	0.87	2.92	10.92		
Watervliet	83	55		1,594	1,745		0.22	1.36	3.97	13.92		
Southwest	86	49	-3	1,613	1,736	1,576	0.19	1.16	4.29	15.47	12.68	3.09
Belding	NA	NA		1,491	1,605		0.00	0.07	2.17	9.61		
Coldwater	82	51		1,611	1,636		0.00	0.61	3.74	11.22		
Lansing	83	53		1,639	1,697		0.05	0.95	3.07	11.38		
South Central	NA	NA	-3	1,587	1,678	1,564	0.21	1.00	3.77	11.90	12.45	3.22
Detroit	85	58		1,798	1,830		0.22	0.80	3.39	10.31		
Flint	84	53		1,689	1,668		0.55	1.86	3.29	10.58		
Romeo	84	58		1,570	1,603		0.00	2.09	3.38	10.61		
Tipton	85	56		1,627	1,653		0.02	0.36	6.22	15.87		
Toledo, OH	88	56		1,775	1,812		0.00	0.93	5.39	14.63		
Southeast	88	52	-2	1,639	1,696	1,539	0.34	1.15	4.40	13.08	12.13	3.11

¹ Issued by the USDA, NASS, Michigan Field Office in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

² Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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